

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 127787
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

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SY:TSHEA
S/S-O:LFLEISCHER

-----054302 200430Z /73

P R 200406Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY
INFO CARMISH MAAG TEHRAN IRAN

S E C R E T STATE 127787

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, IR

SUBJECT: FLIGHT TRAINING FOR CROWN PRINCE

1. TO PREPARE FOR EVENTUAL PRESS RELEASE ON OR PRESS LEAK ABOUT CROWN PRINCE'S FLIGHT TRAINING, DOD IS SENDING OUT TO RELEVANT US COMMANDS MESSAGE BELOW. IT WILL NOT REPEAT NOT BE USED WITHOUT WASHINGTON AUTHORIZATION. WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOUR CONCURRENCE AND COMMENTS ON THE DOD TEXT, WHICH SEEMS SATISFACTORY TO US, AS WELL AS ANY REVIEW OF TEXT WITH GOI THAT YOU THINK APPROPRIATE. UNLESS THERE IS A PRESS LEAK IN THE INTERIM (GENERAL RABII IS AT REESE AIR FORCE BASE TODAY), WE WILL NOT TAKE ANY FURTHER STEPS ON THIS TEXT UNTIL WE HEAR FROM YOU. AFTER THAT, WE (NEA/IRN) WOULD LIKE TO NOTIFY AMBASSADOR ZAHEDI OF OUR PLANS.

2. DOD TEXT FOLLOWS:

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A. IRANIAN CROWN PRINCE REZA CYRUS WILL BE AMONG SIX IRANIAN AIR FORCE OFFICERS UNDERGOING PILOT TRAINING AT REESE AFB, TEXAS AS PART OF CLASS 79-06. PRIOR TO THE START OF THE UPT PROGRAM, THE PRINCE WILL UNDERGO ORIENTATION TRAINING AT THE AIR FORCE ACADEMY FROM 1 JULY TO 15 JULY 1978.

B. IT IS CURRENTLY PLANNED THAT AN ANNOUNCEMENT BE MADE AT REESE AFB ON OR ABOUT 23 JUNE 1978. THE FOLLOWING RELEASE IS PROVIDED FOR YOUR PLANNING ONLY AND IS NOT AUTHORIZED FOR USE UNTIL CLEARED BY OSD/PA AV:227-5331/5131. (THE USAFA MAY USE THE SAME RELEASE, ONCE CLEARED, TO RESPOND TO LOCAL QUERIES.):

(1) IRANIAN CROWN PRINCE REZA CYRUS WILL BE AMONG SIX IRANIAN AIR FORCE CADETS UNDERGOING PILOT TRAINING AT REESE AFB BEGINNING APPROXIMATELY 17 JULY 1978.

(2) THE PRINCE AND HIS FELLOW IRANIAN CADETS WILL BE ENROLLED IN UNDERGRADUATE PILOT TRAINING CLASS 79-06 ALONG WITH APPROXIMATELY 40 UNITED STATES AIR FORCE PILOT TRAINEES. THE 46 WEEK PROGRAM WILL INVOLVE APPROXIMATELY 170 HOURS OF TRAINING IN T-37 AND T-38 AIRCRAFT, UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF U.S. AIR FORCE INSTRUCTOR PILOTS.

(3) PRIOR TO ARRIVING FOR TRAINING AT REESE AFB, THE PRINCE WILL PARTICIPATE IN AN ORIENTATION PROGRAM AT THE U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY AT COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO.

C. IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE RELEASE, ADDRESSEES MAY DRAW UPON THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS TO ANSWER ADDITIONAL QUERIES:

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QUESTION: WILL THE CROWN PRINCE BE UNDERGOING TRAINING IN THE U.S. AS AN IMPERIAL IRANIAN OFFICER OR CADET, OR AS A CIVILIAN?

ANSWER: THE CROWN PRINCE WILL HOLD THE RANK OF CADET DURING HIS TRAINING IN THE UNITED STATES.

QUESTION: WHAT WILL BE THE COSTS OF TRAINING INVOLVED AND WHO WILL PAY THESE COSTS?

ANSWER: THE CURRENT PRICE FOR UNDERGRADUATE PILOT TRAINING (UPT) IS APPROXIMATELY DOLLARS 200,000. ALL COSTS WILL BE PAID BY THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN.

QUESTION: WILL ANY SPECIAL SUPPORTING PERSONNEL ACCOMPANY THE CROWN PRINCE (PERSONAL PHYSICIAN, BODYGUARDS, ETC.)?

ANSWER: CURRENT PLANS ARE THAT THE CROWN PRINCE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN IRANIAN COLONEL WHO WILL ACT AS HIS MILITARY AIDE. THE COLONEL WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY HIS FAMILY.

QUESTION: ARE ANY OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY EXPECTED TO EITHER ACCOMPANY OR VISIT THE CROWN PRINCE DURING HIS TRAINING IN THE UNITED STATES?

ANSWER: I HAVE NO INFORMATION ON THAT. (QUESTIONS OF THIS NATURE SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE.)

QUESTION: WHY WAS THE UNITED STATES CHOSEN AS THE TRAINING LOCATION? WHY WAS TRAINING NOT SCHEDULED IN IRAN?

ANSWER: UNDERGRADUATE PILOT TRAINING FOR THE CROWN PRINCE COULD NOT BE ACCOMPLISHED IN IRAN BECAUSE THAT COUNTRY DOES NOT HAVE A UPT PROGRAM IN THE T-37 AND T-38 AIRCRAFT. IRAN SENDS A NUMBER OF STUDENTS THROUGH USAF UPT EACH YEAR,
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AND HAS CONFIDENCE THAT THE COURSE PREPARES WELL-QUALIFIED PILOTS.

QUESTION: HOW AND WHY WAS REESE AFB SELECTED AS THE LOCATION FOR UNDERGRADUATE PILOT TRAINING?

ANSWER: REESE AFB WAS SELECTED BECAUSE OF COURSE AND TIME AVAILABLE, CLASS COMPOSITION, AND AVAILABLE TRAINING SPACES. THE BASE WAS SELECTED BY HQ AIR TRAINING COMMAND.

QUESTION: WHERE WILL THE CROWN PRINCE LIVE DURING HIS TRAINING?

ANSWER: THE CROWN PRINCE WILL LIVE IN THE STUDENT QUARTERS ON REESE AFB, ALONG WITH THE OTHER U.S. AND FOREIGN STUDENTS UNDERGOING TRAINING AT THAT BASE.

QUESTION: WILL THE CROWN PRINCE BE A MEMBER OF A REGULAR PILOT TRAINING CLASS, AND IF SO, WHAT IS THE MAKEUP OF THAT CLASS?

ANSWER: YES, CLASS 79-06. THE MAKEUP OF THIS CLASS WILL INCLUDE APPROXIMATELY 40 U.S. PILOT TRAINEES, AND SIX IRANIAN PILOT TRAINEES, INCLUDING THE CROWN PRINCE. DURING THE COURSE OF HIS TRAINING, HOWEVER, THERE WILL BE FOREIGN STUDENTS FROM SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES UNDERGOING FLYING AND TECHNICAL TRAINING IN OTHER CLASSES.

QUESTION: WHO HAS BEEN DESIGNATED TO FLY WITH THE CROWN PRINCE?

ANSWER: AS WITH ALL STUDENTS (U.S. AND FOREIGN) UNDERGOING FLYING TRAINING, HIGHLY QUALIFIED INSTRUCTOR PILOTS
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(IPS) FOR BOTH THE T-37 AND T-38 PHASES WILL BE DESIGNATED TO FLY WITH THE CROWN PRINCE. IT IS EXPECTED THAT SEVERAL IPS WILL, IN THE COURSE OF THE TRAINING, FLY WITH THE CROWN PRINCE.

QUESTION: WHAT TYPES OF TRAINING WILL BE PROVIDED TO THE CROWN PRINCE?

ANSWER: THE CROWN PRINCE WILL RECEIVE A BRIEF COURSE ON INTRODUCTORY MILITARY TRAINING AT THE AIR FORCE ACADEMY, FOLLOWED BY THE STANDARD US AIR FORCE UNDERGRADUATE PILOT TRAINING COURSE AT REESE AFB, CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY 170 HOURS OF FLYING TRAINING.

QUESTION: WILL THE CROWN PRINCE RECEIVE SPECIALLY TAILORED TRAINING, OR NORMAL COURSES PROVIDED TO US AND OTHER FOREIGN STUDENTS?

ANSWER: ASIDE FROM A SPECIAL TWO-WEEK ORIENTATION AT THE AIR FORCE ACADEMY PRIOR TO FLYING TRAINING, THE CROWN PRINCE WILL RECEIVE THE STANDARD UNDERGRADUATE PILOT TRAINING COURSE AT REESE AFB.

QUESTION: WILL THE CROWN PRINCE BE SUBJECTED TO THE NORMAL DISCIPLINE AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES APPLICABLE TO OTHER STUDENTS?

ANSWER: WHILE PROTOCOL DICTATED BY THE POSITION OF THE CROWN PRINCE WILL UNDERSTANDABLY REQUIRE SOME ADJUSTMENTS IN THE TRAINING ADMINISTRATION, NORMAL DISCIPLINE AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES WILL APPLY, PARTICULARLY AS THEY APPLY TO FLYING SAFETY. (NOTE: QUESTIONS CONCERNING DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY SHOULD BE REFERRED TO DEPARTMENT OF STATE.)

QUESTION: WILL THE CROWN PRINCE BE AWARDED U.S. AIR FORCE PILOTS WINGS UPON COMPLETION OF UNDERGRADUATE PILOT TRAIN-

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ING?

ANSWER: YES. ALL GRADUATES (U.S. AND FOREIGN) OF THE U.S. AIR FORCE UPT PROGRAM RECEIVE U.S. AIR FORCE PILOT'S WINGS.

QUESTION: WHAT KIND OF SCHEDULE WILL THE CROWN PRINCE

HAVE DURING HIS TRAINING IN THE UNITED STATES?

ANSWER: WE EXPECT THAT THE CROWN PRINCE WILL PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE NORMAL CLASS SOCIAL FUNCTIONS, AND THAT HE WILL AUGMENT THAT, AS ALL STUDENT PILOTS DO, WITH HIS OWN DESIRES. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE CROWN PRINCE IS HIGHLY INTERESTED IN SPORTS, ESPECIALLY SOCCER, AND IS AN ACCOMPLISHED ATHLETE.

D. ANY QUESTIONS THAT CANNOT BE ANSWERED WITH THE ABOVE SHOULD BE REFERRED TO OSD/PA. REQUESTS FOR INTERVIEWS AND PHOTOGRAPHY OF THE CROWN PRINCE AND OTHER IRANIAN STUDENTS IN THE CLASS SHOULD BE CLEARED WITH THE IRANIAN AIR FORCE COLONEL WHO WILL SERVE AS THE CROWN PRINCE'S POINT OF CONTACT AT REESE AFB. REPORTS OF DISTURBANCES ASSOCIATED WITH THE CROWN PRINCE'S TRAINING IN THE U.S. SHOULD IMMEDIATELY BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE AF/CV. WHILE THE PRESENCE OF THE PRINCE WILL BE OF INTEREST TO THE MEDIA, HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE CLASS SHOULD NOT BE QUOTE PROMOTED UNQUOTE BY INFORMATION PERSONNEL OR BASE OFFICIALS. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THERE BE MINIMUM INTERFERENCE WITH HIS TRAINING PROGRAMS. PARAGRAPHS 2(A) AND 2(B) OF THIS MESSAGE WILL BECOME UNCLASSIFIED ONCE AUTHORIZATION FOR ANNOUNCEMENT IS GIVEN BY OSD/PA. PARAGRAPH 2(C) GDS 31 DEC. 86. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRINCE, PERSONNEL TRAINING, AIRCRAFT PILOTS, PRESS RELEASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE127787
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MLGREENE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780212-0545
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780538/aaaabfkt.tel
Line Count: 248
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: af6b179a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2628556
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FLIGHT TRAINING FOR CROWN PRINCE
TAGS: MILI, SOPN, IR, (CYRUS, REZA)
To: TEHRAN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/af6b179a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014